AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12. (canceled)

13. (new)   A cosmetic composition comprising a conjugate comprising a hyperbranched polymer covalently bonded to at least three UV absorbing chromophores having an UV absorption maximum $\lambda_{max} \geq 270$ nm selected from the group consisting of the moieties represented by general formulae:

(V-A)   (V-B)   (V-C)

(V-D)   (V-E)   (V-F)

wherein

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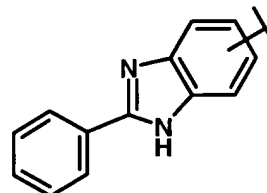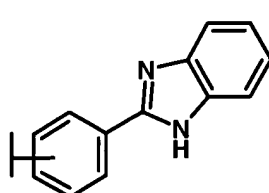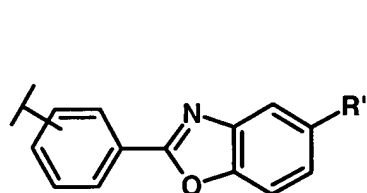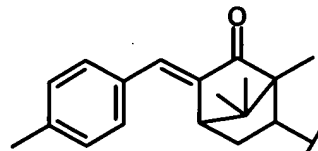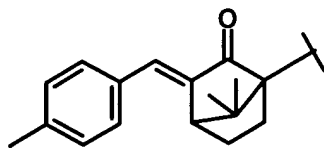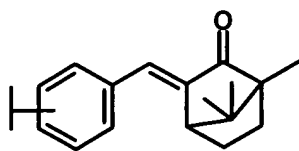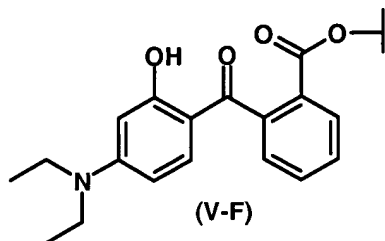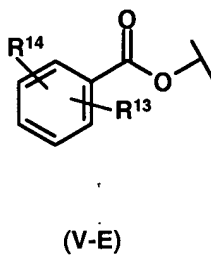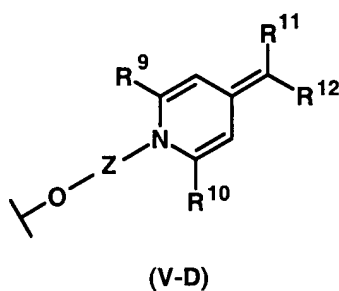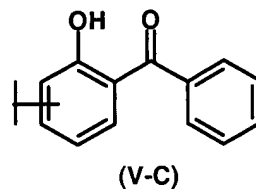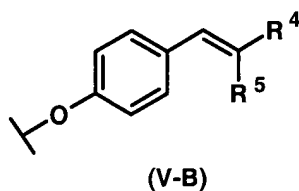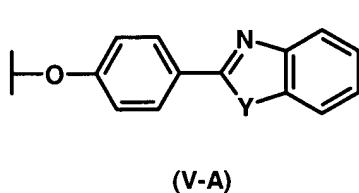
Y is O or NR^3 wherein R^3 is H, C_1-C_6-alkyl or C_2-C_6-alkenyl;

R^4 and R^5 are independently H, C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_2-C_6-alkenyl, CO_2H, CO_2-C_1-C_6-alkyl, or R^4 and R^5 together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 6-camphenyl ring;

R^9 and R^{10} are independently H or C_1-C_6-alkyl;

R^{11} and R^{12} are independently H, C_1-C_6-alkyl, NO_2, CO_2-C_1-C_6-alkyl or CN;

Z is C_1-C_6-alkylene, optionally interrupted by 1 to 3 oxygen atoms;

R^{13} and R^{14} are independently H, OR^{15}, $NR^{16}R^{17}$ or C_1-C_6-alkyl; and

R^{15}, R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from H and C_1-C_6-alkyl; and

wherein R' is H, OH, straight or branched chain C_1-C_{20}-alkyl, C_1-C_{20}-alkoxy or C_2-C_{20}-alkenyl;

and wherein In the above definition the symbol "⊣" denotes the linkage to the hyperbranched polymer;

or a moiety of benzophenone-3, benzophenone-4,2,2',4,4'-tetrahydroxy-benzophenone and 2,2'-dihydroxy-4,4'dimethoxybenzophenone;

and a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

14. (new)   Compositions according to claim 13, characterized in that the hyperbranched polymer exhibits an average degree of branching ≥ 25%.

15. (new)   Compositions according to claim 13, characterized in that the hyperbranched polymer has an average molecular weight M_w within the range of from 500 to 50,000 g mol^{-1}.

16. (new)   Compositions according to claim 13, characterized in that the hyperbranched polymer comprises an average number of 2 to 600 dendritic building blocks.

17. (new)   Compositions according to claim 13, characterized in that the hyperbranched polymer comprises a structure represented by general formula (I)

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$\{[Q] \, (Y^1)_g\} \, (LX)_p \, (Y^2)_h$ (I),
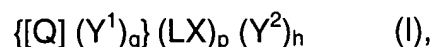
wherein

Y^1 and Y^2 independently represent UV absorbing chromophores;

$\{[Q] \, (Y^1)_g\}$ represents the hyperbranched polymer covalently bonded to g UV absorbing chromophores Y^1;

$(LX)_p$ represents p linker units LX, wherein independently the distal end of each linker unit LX bears a functional group X either being

- covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y^2, or
- covalently bonded to a capping group, or
- in its free reactive form,

and wherein the proximal end of each linker unit LX is covalently bonded to the hyperbranched polymer; and

wherein

index g is an integer, wherein $0 \leq g \leq 100$;

index h is an integer, wherein $0 \leq h \leq p$; and

index p is an integer, wherein $0 \leq p \leq 100$;

with the proviso that $g + h \geq 3$.

18. (new)   Compositions according to claim 17, characterized in that the hyperbranched polymer comprises a structure represented by general formula (II)

$\{[(B_k)_l \, (AB_m)_n] \, (Y^1)_g\} \, (LX)_p \, (Y^2)_h$ (II),

wherein

Y^1 and Y^2 are defined as in claim 5;

LX is defined as in claim 5;

B_k represents a starter unit bearing k functional groups B, wherein independently each functional group B is

- covalently bonded to a functional group A of a building block AB_m, or
- covalently bonded to the proximal end of a linker unit LX, or

- covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y^1, or

- covalently bonded to a capping group, or

- in its free reactive form;

$(AB_m)_n$ represents n building blocks AB_m, each bearing a functional group A and

m independent functional groups B, wherein independently each functional

group A is

- covalently bonded to a functional group B

  - of a further building block AB_m or

  - of the starter unit B_k, or

- covalently bonded to a capping group, or

- in its free reactive form,

and wherein independently each functional group B is

- covalently bonded to a functional group A of a further building block AB_m, or

- covalently bonded to the proximal end of a linker unit LX, or

- covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y^1, or

- covalently bonded to a capping group, or

- in its free reactive form;

wherein

   index g is defined as in claim 5;

   index h is defined as in claim 5;

   index k is an integer of from 1 to 6;
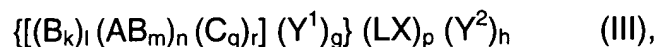
   index l is 0 or 1;

   index m is an integer of from 2 to 4;

   index n is an integer of from 3 to 100; and

   index p is an integer wherein $0 \leq p \leq n(m-1)+k$.

19. (new)   Compositions according to claim 18, characterized in that in the hyperbranched polymer index l is 1, the starting unit B_k is trimethylolpropane and the building block AB_m is glycidol.

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20. (new)   Compositions according to claim 17, characterized in that the hyperbranched polymer comprises a structure represented by general formula (III)

$$\{[(B_k)_l\,(AB_m)_n\,(C_q)_r]\,(Y^1)_g\}\,(LX)_p\,(Y^2)_h \qquad (III),$$

wherein

Y^1 and Y^2 are defined as in claim 5;

LX   is defined as in claim 5;

B_k represents a starter unit bearing k functional groups B, wherein independently each functional group B is

- covalently bonded to a functional group C

- of a monomer C_2 or

- of a building block C_q or

- covalently bonded to the proximal end of a linker unit LX, or

- covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y^1, or

- covalently bonded to a capping group, or

- in its free reactive form;

$(AB_m)_n$ represents n building blocks AB_m, each bearing a functional group A and m independent functional groups B, wherein independently each functional group A is

- covalently bonded to a functional group C

- of a monomer C_2 or

- of a building block C_q, or

- covalently bonded to the proximal end of a linker unit LX, or

- covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y^1, or

- covalently bonded to a capping group, or

- in its free reactive form;

and wherein independently each functional group B is

- covalently bonded to a functional group C

- of a monomer C_2 or

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      - of a building block C_q, or

      - covalently bonded to the proximal end of a linker unit LX, or

      - covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y^1, or

      - covalently bonded to a capping group, or

      - in its free reactive form;

$(C_q)_r$ represents

    - when index q = 2: r monomers C_2 or

    - when index q > 2: r building blocks C_q

    each bearing q functional groups C, wherein independently each functional

    group C is

      - covalently bonded to a functional group A of a building block AB_m, or

      - covalently bonded to a functional group B

        - of a building block AB_m or

        - of the starter unit B_k, or

      - covalently bonded to the proximal end of a linker unit LX, or

      - covalently bonded to an UV absorbing chromophore Y^1, or

      - covalently bonded to a capping group, or

      - in its free reactive form;

wherein

    index g is defined as in claim 5;

    index h is defined as in claim 5;

    index k is an integer of from 1 to 6;

    index l is 0 or 1;

    index m is an integer of from 2 to 4;
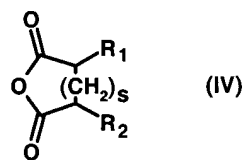
    index n is an integer of from 3 to 100;

    index p is an integer wherein $0 \leq p \leq n(m-1) + r(q-1) + k$;

    index q is an integer of from 2 to 4; and

    index r is an integer wherein $1 \leq r \leq nm/q$.

21. (new)   Compositions according to claim 20, characterized in the hyperbranched polymer index I is 0, index q is 2, building block AB_m is diisopropanolamine and monomer C_2 is a compound represented by general formula (IV)

,

wherein

index s is 0, 1 or 2;

R^1 and R^2 are independently H, linear or branched C_1-C_{18}-alkyl or C_2-C_{18}-alkenyl, or

R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atoms to which the are attached form a 4 to 7 membered aliphatic or aromatic ring.

22. (new)   The composition according to claim 17, characterized in that in the hyperbranched polymer the linker unit LX comprises polyethyleneoxide or polypropyleneoxide.

23. (new)   Compositions according to claim 17, characterized in that the hyperbranched polymer comprises 1 to 20 capping groups.

24. (new)   Compositions according to claim 23, characterized in that the capping group is a straight or branched chain ether or ester group with 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

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